

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 11, 2021 8:00 AM

Printed on: March 12, 2021 8:59 AM

COMMENTS FOR: HB 1322

Ann Smith

Eanes Indivisible

austin, TX

I support legislation to create an independent redistricting commission that would function independently of the Legislature, in both membership and operation. Such a commission should use clear timelines, criteria, and procedures to draw the maps and allow for citizen participation throughout the entire map-making process.

The Legislature should implement procedural rules and timelines to increase public input, accountability, and transparency into the redistricting process. These procedures would also provide safeguards to communities protected under the Voting Rights Act by ensuring that they have a voice in the process. The following procedures are critical for fair redistricting:

1. Hold public input hearings after the census data is delivered to the state.
2. Allow virtual committee hearings to be held throughout the entire legislative session.
3. Provide at least 14 days to review the maps.
4. Provide 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps.
5. Provide an analysis of how the new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color.
6. Retain all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps.

Thank you,

Ann Smith
2405 De Soto Drive
Austin, Texas 78733

Attachments area

Gail Yanoshak

Self

Austin, TX

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Thank you,

Gail Yanoshak
12001 Dessau Road
APt 1512
Austin, TX 78754

Donnis Baggett, Executive Vice President
Texas Press Association
Bryan, TX

This is a good bill. Notices of proposed rules changes are often extremely difficult to understand. It doesn't have to be this way. A clear, 100-word summary would not only make the information more digestible for citizens, but would encourage agency officials to think in terms of the people they ultimately represent. If they're compelled to summarize the issue in laymen's language, perhaps they will think harder about what effect the proposed change would have on the average Texan.
